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NEW MINING METHODS INCREASE OUTPUT

Mirko Perisic, an engineer at the Aleksinac coal mines, has discovered an improved method of cutting that will permit the working norms to be raised by 17 percent.

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The new method involves drilling four holes for the explosive at an angle in the middle of the face and 12 more holes around them in a predetermined pattern. The explosive is set off in such a way that the four holes in the middle explode first, making a cavity in the face, and then the other holes explode. Relieved of pressure from the middle of the face, this part disintegrates much more readily.

This method was known previously in Yugoslavia, but was not used at the Aleksinac mines until 14 January 1949. The new method cuts twice the area and requires only about half as much explosive as the former method. It is also being applied to work in stone quarries and will be adopted in all Serbian coal mines.

SLOVENIAN MINES BEAT QUARTER PLAN -- Borba, No 77, 31 Mar 49

Many Slovenian mines have completed their production plans for the first quarter of 1949 ahead of schedule. The Trbovlje coal mine, which exceeded its February plan by 4 percent, completed its 3-month plan 3 days ahead of schedule. The Senovo, Libeje, Pecovnik, and Kanizarica mines also fulfilled their plans ahead of schedule. The Velenje and Zabukovica coal mines and the mine at Lasko are expected to meet their plans on time.

The best results were achieved by the mine at Sent Janz, which completed its plan 10 days ahead of schedule, as a result of the prompt completion of preliminary work on a new coal field. However, some mines have not paid sufficient attention to the preparation of new deposits while the old ones were being exhausted. The Kocevje mine, for example, failed to meet its January plan by about 20 percent and so was unable to meet its 3-month plan. Its old seam had been exhausted in December.

The Zagorje coal mine will fulfill its 3-month plan on time. Well-organized youth brigades at the Hrastnik and Lasko mines are achieving excellent results.

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